

LAW OFFICES OF

PILLSBURY, MADISON & SUTRO

STANDARD OIL BUILDING

225 BUSH STREET

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94104

TELEPHONE (415) 983-1000

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NUMBER

(415) 983-1451

Executive Secretary

TELEX 34743

CABLE ADDRESS "EVANS"

TELECOPIER: TEL. (415) 398-2086

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P- Brown, Anthony P.
Long under Agee

Mr. William E. Colby
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Colby:

I represent Straight Arrow Publishers, Inc. My client has purchased from Penguin in the United Kingdom the right to publish in the United States a volume written by Philip Agee who claims to have been formerly employed as a CIA agent. It is my understanding that Penguin plans publication in the United Kingdom and Canada shortly after the first of the year. The publication date in this country would be sometime thereafter.

My comments and questions in this letter are based on an assumption that you know all about Agee's manuscript and have had a copy of it available for your study. If this assumption is wrong and you would like to receive a copy of the manuscript, I believe that I can arrange it for you.

I have read the Marchetti case and therefore am familiar with the CIA's efforts to suppress that publication. That activity leads one to suspect that some objection might be made to the Agee book. The material in the Agee book is all pretty well dated and I have no way of knowing whether such an objection could be a legitimate one. The critical factor in the present situation is the impending publication in the United Kingdom and Canada. Any person who is really interested in the details and personalities involved in the covert operations described in the Agee book will surely obtain a copy of it when it is published overseas and publication here in the United States of material already in the public domain could not further compromise the security of CIA operations. I conclude therefore that unless the publication in the United Kingdom and Canada is somehow prevented,